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original claims 1-11 replaced by amended claims 1-10 (2 pages)]

Claims

1. Force sensor (1) including a support (2) of two arms
carrying an longitudinal electromechanical element (3), which
electric properties are changeable by a mechanical deforma-
5 tion (Δx) due to a force (F);

characterised in that

the electromechanical element is a nanostructure (3) and an
actuator is provided in order to transmit a force (F) to the
nanostructure (3).

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2. Force sensor (1) according to claim 1;

characterised in that

the nanostructure (3) is either a nanotube or a carbon nano-
tube or bor-nitride nanotubes or a quasi one-dimensional (1D)
15 nanostructure.

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3. Force sensor (1) according to claim 1 or 2;

characterised in that

the changeable electric property is the conductance.

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4. Force sensor (1) according to anyone of the claims 1 to
3;

characterised in that

the support (2) is U-shaped.

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5. Force sensor (1) according to anyone of the claims 1 to
4;

characterised in that

each arm (2) is provided with a cusp (5), on which the nano-
30 structure (3) is mounted.

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6. Force sensor (1) according to anyone of the claims 1 to 5;

characterised in that

5 a movable mass (7, m) provided with a tip (11) is arranged between the arms (4), where the mass (7) is movable due to an acting acceleration (a) and due to the resulting force (F) the tip (11) acts on the nanostructure (3).

10 7. Force sensor (1) according to anyone of the claims 1 to 6;

characterised in that

a second nanostructure (10) is carried by the arms (4) in order to compensate environmental effects.

15 8. Force sensor (1) according to claim 7;

characterised in that

each arm (2) is provided with a further cusp (5), on which the second nanostructure (10) is mounted.

20 9. Force sensor (1) according to claim 8;

characterised in that

each arm (2) is provided with an insulation (9) in order to electrically separate the nanostructure (3, 10).

25 10. Force sensor (1) according to anyone of the claims 7 to 9;

characterised in that

the second nanostructure (10) is either a nanotube or a carbon nanotube or a quasi one-dimensional nanostructure.

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